V. Description of a horse without hair

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trace, which undulated at the surface of the salt. But this effect is doubtful: when projected on ignited iron, it retained a light scarcely sensible.

In the last place, I subjected to distillation, at a red heat, in a luted glass retort, one gramme and a half (23·16 grains) of this substance. I obtained some drops of a liquid transparent as water, and a quantity of air which did not exceed the capacity of the vessels used for distilling. This air contained one or two hundredths of carbonic acid gas; a quantity inferior to what I expected to obtain by the decomposition of water and the inflammable matter contained in the clay. The carbonic acid gas, naturally belonging to the air of the vessels anterior to the distillation, must be deducted from the estimation I have given.

XII. I shall recapitulate, in a few words, the principal results of these observations:

1st, Alumine does not form with carbonic acid a concrete carbonate of alumine; or, at least, no one has been able to form that combination.

2d, The substance, hitherto considered as artificial concrete carbonate of alumine, is the result of the union of alumine with alkali and carbonic acid. This acid does not, probably, enter into this combination but by its affinity for the alkali.

3d, Alumine does not seem to unite with carbonic acid but in the case when the latter is dissolved in water; when this earth precipitates itself from this solution by the volatilization of the carbonic acid, it does not appear in the state of carbonate.

4th, Native clays, considered by some authors as carbonates of alumine, did not appear to me to be in that state.

5th, The native argil of Hales, precipitated from its solutions in nitric acid by carbonate of ammonia in excess, leaves in solution in the latter salt, a substance or combination which deserves further examination.

[To be continued.]

V. *Description of a Horse without Hair.* By C. DE LASTEYRIE, *Member of the Philomatic Society*.*

THE first men who observed nature, struck with the wonders which it continually presented to their minds, fell into the marvellous, because they were as yet unacquainted with its laws, its means, and its powers. Such is the origin

* From the *Journal de Physique*, Floreal, an. 9.

of those ridiculous tales and absurd suppositions to be found in antient authors, and which have been transmitted, from age to age, till the period when mankind began to examine with more accuracy, and to make better observations.

By multiplying researches they have been rendered more exact: at present there is no necessity for believing a fact merely because it contains something of the marvellous, or is mentioned by such or such an author.

Is the horse without hair, which forms the subject of this article, to be considered as a new variety in the species, or are the characters by which this seems to be indicated a mere accident, produced by disease, or the effect of art? The proofs I have obtained, and the observations I have made on this animal, incline me to believe that it is an individual of a peculiar variety. "Instead of contracting the limits of its power," says Buffon, speaking of nature, "we must enlarge and extend them even to immensity; we must see nothing impossible, we must suppose every thing, and believe that every thing which can be really exists!" Though the number, indeed, of the travellers who give themselves the trouble to make observations is very inconsiderable, we however are daily made acquainted with new facts, and we see nature extended in proportion as we give extension to our researches. By comparing the countries, the productions of which are known with those which have not yet been examined by naturalists, it may be easily perceived that the field which remains for us to be passed over is of greater extent than that passed over by our predecessors. If the number of the substances contained in the bowels of the earth, and that of the beings which elude our researches at its surface, is prodigious, may we not also believe that there exist substances and beings more easily to be discovered, of which, however, we have as yet no accounts?

I shall now relate the history of the horse without hair and mane, such as I received it.—He was purchased, about ten years ago, at Vienna, by a Frenchman named Alpi, formerly employed in the menagerie of Versailles, by whom he was exhibited in several towns of Germany with other animals, and afterwards sold, for fifty louis, to the Veterinary School at Berlin. This horse had been taken from the Turks during the last war, and carried by an Austrian officer to Vienna. Alpi exhibited him under the name of the Horse of the Nile, and said he came from Africa. He yoked him to a cart on which he carried about his animals. Four years ago he was in the Veterinary College of Berlin.

This horse appears to me to be about twenty years of age;

38 *Description of a newly invented Galvanometer.*

he eats the same food, and in the same quantity, as common horses: he is meagre, as he always had been from the time he was brought to the Veterinary School. He is strong and vigorous, trots somewhat hard on account of his age, and because he has been employed in the draught. He is very sensible to cold, and therefore during winter is always kept exceedingly warm. His head is small and well made, the neck pretty, and the chest open; his legs, on which he stands well, are slender; but the rest of his body is not so beautiful, on account of his age and meagre state.

He differs from other horses only in the want of hair, the depression of his forehead, and the noise he makes when breathing. I have carefully observed all the parts of his body, even the interior of the ears, and I have found only a black bristle, about three-tenths of an inch in length, on the lower eye-lid of the left eye. His skin is of a black colour inclining to gray, with some white spots on the flanks and groin. It is plated on the upper part of the chest, is very soft to the touch on the whole body, and has a shining and unctuous appearance. What gives reason to believe that the want of hair in this animal is neither the effect of art nor the result of disease is, that the skin on the nose, around the nostrils, and on the upper and lower lips, differs from that of other horses, and has all the characters above indicated: it has almost all the appearances of that of the Turkish dog. A very distinguishing character is the depression in the middle of the forehead, measuring from the anterior angle of the eyes and the angle of the mouth. This depression, which contracts the aperture formed by the nasal bone, occasions some embarrassment to the animal in breathing, and at each inspiration and expiration it makes a noise which may be compared to that made by a person when the nostrils are obstructed. This noise increases when the animal has been running, or employed in hard labour. He has, however, strong lungs and good wind.

VI. *Description of a newly invented Galvanometer, and an Account of some Experiments made with Volta's Pile upon several of the Gases.* By W. H. PEPYS jun. Esq.*

DURING a course of experiments upon atmospheric electricity, with which I occupied myself in the year 1798, I

* Communicated by the author.

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